

Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for grooming ground, comprising:

a frame supported on a set of wheels at a rearward end and having a tongue on a forward end for attachment to a towing vehicle;

a rake bar for raking earth, the rake bar being pivotally mounted below and transverse to the frame between the forward and rearward ends, the rake bar being movable between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position; and

a broom bar pivotally mounted to the rearward end of the frame by a broom bar arm and having a set of bristles for sweeping the ground, the broom bar and the broom bar arm being movable independently of the rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position; and wherein

the broom bar is located entirely forward of the wheels transverse to a longitudinal axis of the frame and with the bristles facing away from the frame while in the storage position to enable the apparatus to be stored with the wheels resting on the ground and the frame tilted up to a substantially vertical position against a wall.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~the rake bar is mounted to the frame by a pair of arms, each of the arms having one end mounted to the frame at a pivot point and another end connected to the rake bar, so that rotating the arms about the pivot point moves the rake bar between the ground engaging and storage positions; and the apparatus further comprises:~~

~~a latch that extends between the frame and at least one of the arms to retain the rake in the storage position~~ comprises a blade having a plurality of serrations for engaging the ground, each of the serrations having inclined edges that converge toward each other to a peak .

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the rake bar is mounted to the frame by a rake bar arm having one end mounted to the frame at a pivot point and another end connected to the rake bar, so that rotating the ~~arms~~ rake bar arm about the pivot point moves the rake bar between the ground engaging and storage positions; and wherein

the rake bar is pivotally mounted to the rake bar arm to selected various inclinations of the rake bar relative to the ground.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rake bar comprises:

a blade mounting bar; and

a blade having serrations on oppositely facing first and second edges, the blade being selectively mounted on the blade mounting bar with the first edge positioned to engage the ground, and alternately with the second edge positioned to engage the ground.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~further comprising a plurality of weight plates selectively mounted to~~ wherein the rake bar comprises:

a downward facing channel member having forward and rearward sides joined by an upper side, each of the forward and rearward sides having a lower edge portion positioned for contact with the ground; and

a blade having serrations and mounted on the forward side of the blade mounting bar with the serrations positioned slightly lower than the lower edge portion of the forward side to engage the ground.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

~~the broom bar is mounted to an arm that is pivotally mounted to the frame, allowing the arm to rotate the broom above the frame to a storage position; and wherein~~

the broom bar is pivotally mounted to the broom bar arm to allow the broom bar to be positioned at various inclinations relative to the ground while in the ground engaging position.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a second rake bar pivotally mounted forward of the first-mentioned rake bar transverse to the frame, the second rake bar being movable relative to the frame independently of the first-mentioned rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position;

the second rake bar having a plurality of spaced apart tines for engaging the ground; and

the first rake bar comprising a blade with a plurality of serrations.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for grooming ground, comprising:

a frame having a tongue on a forward end for attaching to a towing vehicle, the frame having a longitudinal beam that is centered on the apparatus and a transverse beam on a rearward end of the longitudinal beam that is supported by a pair of wheels;

a rake bar for raking the ground;

a pair of rake bar arms mounted to the rake bar and pivotally secured to opposite sides of the longitudinal beam forward of the wheels, so that rotating the ~~brake~~ rake bar arms about the pivot point swings the rake bar upward from a ground engaging position to a storage position beneath the frame;

the rake bar comprising forward and rearward parallel supporting plates, each having a free lower edge for engaging the ground;

a blade mounted to the forward supporting plate and having serrations on a first edge that selectively extend below the lower edge of the forward supporting plate for engaging the ground;

~~a rake bar latch that engages the longitudinal beam and the rake bar arms to lock the rake bar in the storage position;~~

a broom bar for sweeping the ground; and

a broom bar arm secured to the broom bar and pivotally mounted to the transverse beam about a pivot point for dragging the broom bar behind the wheels while the broom bar is in a ground engaging position, wherein rotating the broom bar arm about the pivot point on the transverse beam places the broom bar in a storage position entirely forward of the wheels and above the longitudinal beam.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the rake bar is pivotally and adjustably mounted to the rake bar arms to select various inclinations of the rake bar relative to the ground while in the ground engaging position.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the broom bar is pivotally and adjustably mounted to the broom bar arm to select various inclinations of the broom bar relative to the ground while in the ground engaging position.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ~~rake bar~~ comprises:

—~~a blade mounting bar; and~~

—~~a blade having~~ has serrations on ~~oppositely facing first and a second that opposite the first edges~~ edge, the blade being selectively mounted on the blade mounting bar with the first edge positioned to engage the ground, and alternately with the second edge positioned to engage the ground.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, ~~further comprising a plurality of weight plates selectively mounted to the rake bar~~ wherein each of the serrations has a pair of inclined edges that converge toward each other.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a second rake bar pivotally mounted forward of the first-mentioned rake bar transverse to the frame, the second rake bar being movable relative to the frame independently of the first-mentioned rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position, the second rake bar having a plurality of spaced apart tines for engaging the ground.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

~~a second rake bar pivotally mounted forward of the first-mentioned rake bar transverse to the frame, the second rake bar being movable relative to the frame independently of the first-mentioned rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position; and wherein~~

~~— one of the rake bars comprises a blade having a plurality of serrations and the other of the rake bars comprises a plurality of tines latch plates mounted to each of the rake arms, the latch plates being spaced apart slightly greater than a width of the longitudinal beam and protruding from the rake arms for location on opposite sides of the longitudinal beam while the rake bar is in the storage position; and~~

~~a fastener that releasably extends through aligned holes in the latch plates for resting on an upper side of the longitudinal beam to retain the rake bar in the storage position.~~

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~15~~ 18, further comprising:

a second rake bar pivotally mounted forward of the first-mentioned rake bar transverse to the frame, the second rake bar being movable relative to the frame independently of the first-mentioned rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position, the second rake bar having a plurality of spaced apart tines for engaging the ground.

17. (Cancelled)

18 (New) An apparatus for grooming ground, comprising:

a frame supported on a set of wheels at a rearward end and having a tongue on a forward end for attachment to a towing vehicle;

a rake bar for raking earth, the rake bar being pivotally mounted below and transverse to the frame between the forward and rearward ends, the rake bar being movable relative to the frame between a ground engaging position and a storage position that is beneath the frame and elevated relative to the ground engaging position; the rake bar comprising:

a rectangular downward facing channel member having forward and rearward plates, each of the plates having a free lower edge for engaging the ground;

a blade mounted to the forward plate, the blade having a lower edge with serrations that protrudes slightly below the lower edge of the forward plate for engaging the ground; and

a broom bar pivotally mounted to the rearward end of the frame by an arm for sweeping the ground, the broom and arm being movable independently of the rake bar between a ground engaging position and a storage position.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18 wherein each of the serrations has side edges that converge toward each other to a peak.